AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated hereafter. [Use ~~strikethrough~~ for deleted matter and underlined for added matter.]

Claims:

1.   (Cancelled)

2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Cancelled)

4.   (Previously Amended) A selection system according to claim 15, wherein the sub-database is permanent.

5.   (Previously Amended) A selection system according to claim 15, wherein the sub-database is temporary.

6.   (Currently Amended) A selection system according to claim 15, including means operable to transmit from the <u>portable scanning</u> remote user unit a user identification each time a product identifier is transmitted.

7.   (Previously Amended) A selection system according to claim 15, including means operable to transmit a remote unit identifier and means operable to correlate the remote unit identifier with a user identifier.

8.   (Previously Amended) A selection system according to claim 15, wherein the product or service data includes predetermined characteristics of each product or service, one or more of said characteristics being unrelated to the content of a product or service.

9.   (Original)   A selection system according to claim 7, wherein the product characteristics include one or more of: method of treatment or manufacture, distance product has travelled from origin, place of origin, politics of region of origin, type of labour used in manufacture or production, details of manufacturer or supplier, health risks, public health warnings associated with the product, special offers.

10.   (Currently Amended) A selection system according to claim 15, wherein the portable scanning remote user unit includes barcode reading means for identifying a selected product from a barcode thereon and/or reading means for reading a product identifier other than a barcode.

11.   (Currently Amended) A user portable scanning device for advising a user in selecting a product or service, including identifying means for identifying a product or service to be tested, and transmitting means for transmitting to a remote processing unit the product or service identifier and either an identifier related to the portable device or to the user of the portable device.

12.   (Currently Amended) A selection system for advising a user in selecting a service, including a processing unit comprising a service database including service data on a plurality of services, selection means for selecting a particular service listed in the database, and a portable user scanning means operable by a user for identifying a service and for indicating to the user the suitability of the service based on one or more predetermined user preferences.

13.   (Previously Amended) A selection system according to claim 12, wherein the predetermined user preferences include one or more preferences not based upon terms of the service.

14.   (Previously Amended) A selection system according to claim 12, wherein the service database includes data on the service provider and the user preferences are indicative of a nature of a service provider.

15.   (Currently Amended)   A selection system for advising a user in selecting a product or service, including a processing unit comprising a product or service database including product and/or service data on a plurality of products or services, selection means for selecting a particular product or service listed in the database, said processing means including database management means operable to generate a sub-database specific to each user using the system and <u>a portable scanning</u> remote user means operable by a user for identifying a product or service and for indicating to the user the suitability of the product or service on the basis of one or more predetermined user preferences, the remote user means including transmitting means operable to transmit the product or service identifier and the user identifier to the processing unit for processing therein, wherein substantially all of the processing of data is carried out in the processing unit.